

CITY OF DURHAM
Office of Public Affairs
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## **News Release**

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## **Durham Hosts Little Lick Creek Watershed Improvement Plan Meeting**

Public Information Session Set to Share Final Results

DURHAM, N.C. – Residents who want to know about the final results of the City of Durham's plan to improve the <u>Little Lick Creek watershed</u> should mark their calendars now to attend next week's public information session.

The session will be held on Thursday, April 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the <u>Durham</u> <u>County East Regional Library</u>, 211 Lick Creek Lane. The purpose of the meeting is to present the final results from the draft watershed improvement plan and gather input from residents.

According to <u>Sandra Wilbur</u>, project manager with the <u>Stormwater & GIS Services Division</u> of the City's Public Works Department, the plan was developed by studying field conditions, checking pollution controls, and using computer models to show possible outcomes. "Resident input is an important component in finalizing the plan, which sets a course for improving water quality in the Little Lick Creek watershed and complying with state regulations," Wilbur said.

The City launched the project in April 2014 to help find and choose projects to improve stream and watershed health. The projects will also help the City meet water quality regulations. To build the plan, scientists and engineers started by walking over 25 miles of stream to check for erosion and pollution. Next, they looked at 60 stormwater control measures to see if any can be upgraded to filter more pollution. They also used computer programs to model environmental conditions and list costs and benefits. Finally, they scored each potential project to show how well it would improve water quality while meeting additional goals like community enhancement and protecting stream banks.

The Little Lick Creek watershed includes areas of eastern Durham between U.S. Highway 70 and Falls Lake. Some of the major neighborhoods in the watershed are Grove Park, Hidden Hollow, Stonehill, and Twin Lakes. Other landmarks in the watershed are the Durham County East Regional Library, Oak Grove Elementary School, and Southern High School.

For more information about the project, visit the Little Lick Creek Watershed <u>Web page</u> or contact Wilbur at (919) 560-4326, extension 30286 or by <u>email</u>. Persons who require assistance to attend the session next week should call (919) 560-4197, TTY (919) 560-1200, or <u>email</u> no later than 48 hours before the event.

## About the Public Works Department Stormwater and GIS Services Division

The <u>Stormwater and GIS Services Division</u> with the City of Durham <u>Public Works Department</u> is guided by the City's <u>Strategic Plan</u> goals of Stewardship of City's Physical and Environmental Assets as well as Innovative and High-Performing Organization. Activities include storm drainage design and plans review; inspecting and maintaining City-owned drainage systems; enforcing stormwater ordinances and regulations; education and outreach; stream monitoring, restoration, and watershed master planning; maintaining multiple layers of the City's geographic information; and stormwater billing. To learn more, visit the <u>Web page</u>, like on <u>Facebook</u>, and follow on <u>Twitter</u>.

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